AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1.-9 (Canceled)

10. (New) A control unit, comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one memory element for controlling a drive assembly;

a sensor/actuator configuration connected between the at least one processor and the drive assembly and via which the at least one memory element controls the drive assembly;

a first module;

a second module; and

a signal allocating layer, wherein:

a control occurs by a communication between a plurality of functional units filed in the at least one memory element,

the first module is closer to the at least one processor than the second module,

the first module is connected to the second module via the signal allocating layer, and

the signal allocating layer allocates digital signals of the first module to the second module.

11. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 10, further comprising:

a third module that combines functional units for influencing the drive assembly in response to a user command on a physical level.

12. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 10, wherein:

the first module combines functional units for making possible individual programming of the at least one processor so that the at least one processor communicates with the first module and the second module, the functional units coordinating in time a processing of functions of the functional units,

the second module combines functional units for making possible an individual adjustment of the sensor/actuator configuration to the control unit in such a way that, between individual sensors or actuators of the sensor/actuator configuration, communication is possible

with remaining modules of the control unit, and

between the first module and the second module, module interfaces are provided for a module-overlapping communication.

13. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 11, wherein the third module includes:

a vehicle component that combines functional units that are not specific for a type of drive assembly that is used, and

a drive assembly component that combines functional units that are specific for the type of drive assembly that is used.

14. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 11, wherein the first module includes:

an infrastructure component that combines functional units that one of offer and represent basic services accessible by other functional units, and

a hardware capsule component that combines functional units for individually programming hardware of the control unit in such a way that the hardware is put in a position to communicate with at least one of the first module and the second module.

15. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 14, wherein the infrastructure component includes at least one of a functional units services library, a sequence control system, a diagnosis manager, and a monitoring concept.

16. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:

a fourth module that combines functional units for directly activating the sensor/actuator configuration, wherein the sensor/actuator configuration includes complex interfaces to the control unit by the third module.

17. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 11, wherein at least one of the functional units, components, and the modules, including interfaces therebetween, are developed at least partially as a computer program.

18. (New) A computer program for a control unit for controlling a drive assembly of a vehicle, comprising:

a program code that is suitable for mapping one of functional units, components, and modules and for implementing communication therebetween, for the purpose of controlling the drive assembly.

19. (New) The control unit as recited in Claim 10, wherein the drive assembly includes an internal combustion engine of a vehicle.